tonnes with 0.76% Copper at 0.5% Copper cut-off over 900m strike length and vertical depth of 100m were estimated. The deposit appears to have open cast potentiality which will be confirmed by Phase-II work.

**iii. Dhadkidih (Jharkhand).**

The project commenced in December 2004. So far (upto June 2005) 2547m of drilling with matching geological work has been carried out & balance drilling sampling and analytical work are in progress. Work is aimed at proving the open cast potentiality of the deposit.

(c) No, Sir. [The MECL carries out only exploration activities and they are not venturing into commercial production of copper.]

(d) MECL has no plan to venture into commercial production of copper in near future.

**Separate Ministry for Physically Handicapped**

67. SHRI K. RAMA MOHANA RAO: Will the Minister of SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that disabled rights group has been demanding for a separate Ministry for physically handicapped since their rights are being ignored;

(b) whether any representation has been received in this connection;

(c) if so, the steps taken/proposed to be taken thereon; and

(d) the facilities that Government propose to provide to the disabled through the recently released National Policy on Disability?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT (SHRIMATI SUBBULAKSHMI JAGADEESAN): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir.

(c) There is no proposal to create a separate Ministry for persons with disabilities.

(d) A draft National Policy for Persons with Disabilities has been formulated and placed on the web site of the Ministry *viz.* www.socialjustice.nic.in for comments of the individuals/experts/non-governmental organizations.